Leicester, Mass
Aug. 15, 1868.

Dear friend Webb,

We were quite confounded & greatly troubled yesterday ~~yesterday~~ noon, at receiving from S. J. May the pencil note you wrote to him from St. Mary's hospital, Detroit, the 7th inst., wh. he did not receive until eveg. of 11th. He despatched it to me 12th, but I only got it yest., – 24 hours late. But you had been 4 days at D., before apprising him of the accident, & then 5 days previous on the boat after the injury had occurred, — so that you had been a long time a sufferer. — I despatched to you from Worcester yest. a teleg. message, wh. I hope you recd. promptly, and at same time mailed to you a hastily-written note. I stand ready to go on to Detroit any day you may summon me, — extraordinaries only excepted. I think when you come to travel, — as I trust you soon may do, — you will

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need & right to have some one with you constantly, who is tolerably acquainted with ways & places, & who can take all care & responsibility from you. I have wanted, ever since you came here, to be of some use & help to you, but fate allowed you but a glimpse at New England, & soon snatched you away again & has kept you away. I have been, all along, very sorry that you were so much alone in your journeying, espec. since you went Westward. I would have greatly liked to take this Lake Superior trip with you, and perhaps could have arranged to do it, had I known a little before that you were thinking of it. Since that was too late, my wife & I have talked over several trips we c^d. take with you — into the British Provinces (as New Brunswick, &c.), or to the St. Lawrence Country, including Montreal & Quebec, — or to the White Mountains

& now twice — & will again.}

at least. But much uncertainty rests upon our plans now. I wish we had you here in our house this minute, and, as soon as you can bear the ride, I hope you will come. You could return, when you got stronger, to Syracuse, Peterboro', &c. and probably my wife & I could go with you; then S. J. May's daughter & husband wd. be at home – they are at the White Mts. now, he writes me – & we cd. extend our ride to Niag: Falls, & go down the St. Laurence. Let us hope that in the autumn – perhaps in the early autumn – you may be able to do some, or the whole, of this.

You inquire for Mary Estlin. After making us a very short ~~stop~~ visit of 4 or 5 days, she went to Boston, I accompanying her, to Mary Chapman's, & made a brief stay there; thence to Weymouth, & passed a fortnight with the Weston family. I suppose she is now at Garrison's, – she was to be there this week; – & then the arrangement is

1 p.m. Sat. 15. Yr. teleg. answer just came. You see I have written once & now twice – & will again.}

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for her to come here, say by the latter part of next week, the 21st or 22d inst. She was much suited by our hill-region and clear, fine air. And this is a most glorious day, with a most life-giving air stirring, and I wish you were lying right here in our parlour, or on the piazza, this minute.

You asked about Abby Foster. Of course you hadn't heard that she had submitted to an operation for the removal of her tumor. It took place July 30th, which I suppose was the day (either the 29th or that) of your severe injury. The Opn. was considered a perfectly good & successful one. The tumor had only one adhesion, that not bad, & was entirely removed within an hour. It & its watery contents weighd. 35 lbs! Of course, considerable exhaustion & weakness followed; but she has been doing remarkably well, beyond the expectations of all. Physician & nurse say all danger, from inflammation, has passed. The anxious question now is, Has she vital force enough left to overcome the effects of the operation. She has taken the most nourishing food possible, not with wholly favorable results, & some resort to brandy has been found necessary. Her experienced nurse thinks she is doing very well indeed.

Do get some friend to write me a line or two about you. Affly Yrs S. May Jr